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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/910,853	07/24/2001	Susumu Kobayashi	2001_1035A	4034

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EXAMINER

TANG, KAREN C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2151

DATE MAILED: 12/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/910,853	Applicant(s) KOBAYASHI ET AL.	
	Examiner Karen C. Tang	Art Unit 2151	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 39, 43, 47, 50, 54 and 58 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 39, 43, 47, 50, 54 and 58 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/14/02, 9/5/01</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2151

- This action is responsive to the amendment and remarks file on 10/07/05.
- Claims 1-20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 39, 43, 47, 50, 54, and 58 are presented for further examination.
- Claims 21-23, 25-27, 29-31, 33-35, 37-38, 40-42, 44-46, 48-49, 51-53, 55-57, 59-60 are canceled.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17, 18, 20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 39, 43, 48, 50, 54, and 58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicant Admit Prior Art (AAPA : remarks/arguments received on 10/07/05).

1. Referring to Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, 20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 39, 43, 47, 50, 54, and 58, AAPA discloses an e-mail transmission/reception system including a mail terminal, a mail server, and a mail gateway, wherein said mail gateway is connected to the said mail terminal via a network and to said mail server via another network (pages 26, Lines 13 - 26),
wherein said mail server comprises:

Art Unit: 2151

an attached file holding unit (page 26, Lines 18-22) operable to receive an e-mail addressed to a user who possesses said mail terminal and hold one or more attached files included in the e-mail (page 26, Lines 18-25);

and a mail distribution unit operable to receive a file attached e-mail transmitted from said mail gateway and distribute the file attached e-mail to a respective address of one or more receivers of the e-mail (page 26, Lines 13-26);

wherein said mail gateway comprises: an identifier generation unit operable to generate an identifier for each attached file held by said attached file holding unit (page 26, Lines 18-25);

a list transmission unit operable to generate a list of identifiers (a list is a single element: a mail ID is a list) generated by the said identifier generation (it is inherent the system comprises a identifier generation unit in able to create mail id) and transmit the identifier list to said mail terminal (page 26, Lines 13-26);

a reception unit operable to receive attached-file specifying e-mail transmitted from said mail terminal (page 26, Lines 13-26);

the attached-file specifying e-mail including one or more identifiers generated by said identifier generation unit (page 26, Lines 18-26);

an attached file acquisition unit operable to acquire attached files from the-said attached file holding unit, the attached files corresponding to the identifiers included in the attached-file specifying e-mail received by said reception unit (page 26, Lines 18-26);

Art Unit: 2151

a construction unit operable to construct a file attached e-mail by attaching the attached files acquired by the-said attached file acquisition unit to the attached-file specifying e-mail received by said reception unit (page 26, Lines 19-23);

and a mail transmission unit operable to transmit the file attached e-mail constructed by said construction unit to said mail server (page 26, Lines 19-23); and

wherein said mail terminal comprises:

a list reception unit operable to receive the identifier list from said mail gateway (page 26, Lines 13-27);

a preparation unit operable to prepare the attached file specifying email including the one or more identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list as substitutes for one or more files that the user wants to attach to the e-mail (page 26, Lines 13-27); and

a transmission unit operable to transmit the prepared attached-file specifying email to said mail gateway (page 25, Lines 23-26).

2. Referring to Claims 2, 6, 10, and 14, AAPA discloses wherein said attached file holding unit is operable to, whenever receiving an e-mail that includes attached files, generate a list of the attached files and pass the list of the attached files to said identifier generation unit (page 26); and said identifier generation unit is operable to generate an identifier for each of the attached files in accordance with the list of the attached files passed by said attached file holding unit (page 26).

Art Unit: 2151

3. Referring to Claims 3, 7, 11, 15, and 18, AAPA discloses wherein said mail terminal further comprises: a file format registration unit operable to register one or more file formats of attached files for each receiver's address that the receiver should adopt in said mail gateway (attachment is inherent comprises a type of file format, page 26); wherein said mail gateway further comprises: a file format storage unit operable to store receivers' addresses and file formats that are registered by said file format registration unit (page 26); and a file format conversion unit operable to convert file formats of attached files for each receiver's address in accordance with the receivers' addresses and the file formats that are stored in the said format storage unit (page 26); and wherein said construction unit is operable to construct the file attached e- mail by attaching the attached files converted by said file format conversion unit from and as a substitute for the attached files acquired by said attached file acquisition unit (substitute the file attachment with mail ID, page 26).

4. Referring to Claims 4, 8, 12, 16, and 19, AAPA discloses all the limitation in Claim 1, furthermore, AAPA discloses wherein said mail terminal further comprises: a sharing notification unit operable to notify said mail gateway that one or more attached files included in an e-mail addressed to the user of said mail terminal are to be shared with other users (send email to the destination, refer to page 26); wherein said mail gateway further comprises:

Art Unit: 2151

an attached file sharing unit operable to, when receiving the notification that the attached files are to be shared with the other users from said mail terminal share each of the attached files held by said attached file holding unit with the other users (refer to page 26);

and a shared identifier generation unit operable to generate a shared identifier for each of the attached files shared by said attached file sharing unit, the shared identifier being available for sharers of the attached files (page 26),

wherein said sharing notification unit includes:

a shared file notification unit operable to notify said mail gateway of one or more identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list as substitutes for the one or more attached files that are permitted to be shared (page 26);

and a sharer notification unit operable to notify said mail gateway of one or more sharers of each of the attached files that are to be shared with the other users (page 26);

wherein said attached file sharing unit is operable to share attached files that correspond to the identifiers notified from said shared file notification unit among attached files held by the-said attached file holding unit with the sharers notified from said sharer notification unit (page 26):

wherein said list transmission unit is further operable to transmit a list of the shared identifiers to the sharers of the attached files wherein said attached file acquisition unit further operable to acquire attached files that correspond to the shared identifiers and wherein said list reception unit further operable to receive a list of shared identifiers that

Art Unit: 2151

have g-one to one correspondence to each of the attached files that are shared by the user of said mail terminal as one member of the sharers (page 26).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 10/07/05, have been fully considered but they are moot due to the amended claims.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karen C. Tang whose telephone number is (571)272-3116. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7 - 3.

Art Unit: 2151

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Zarni Maung can be reached on (571)272-3939. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Karen Tang

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Karen Tang', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.